Disability and Disability Visitability

Disability is defined as a "Yes" response to one or both of the following questions:
1. **Are you limited in any way in any activities because of physical, mental, or emotional problems?**
2. **Do you now have any health problem that requires you to use special equipment such as a cane, a wheelchair, a special bed, or a special telephone?**

- Twenty percent or one in five Montana adults reported a disability in 2004.
- Gender was not related to disability status; about 20 percent of both males and females fit the criteria for disability.
- Disability status was more prevalent with increasing age, ranging from 8 percent of adults aged 18-24 to 32 percent of adults aged 65 or older.
- Income and educational level were inversely associated with disability status, that is, the higher the household income level or educational attainment the less likely a respondent was to report having a disability.
- There were essentially no regional differences in the prevalence of disability among Montana adults.

Visitability is defined as a "Yes" response to the following question: If a person who uses special equipment, such as a wheelchair, came to visit you, could they get into your house without being carried up steps or over other obstacles?

- Overall, 19 percent of Montana adults indicated that they lived in visitable homes in which a person who uses special equipment, such as a wheelchair, could get into their home without being carried up steps or over other obstacles.
- Adults aged 65 and older (28%) reported more visitable homes than younger aged adults ($\leq$20%).
- Adults who had visitable homes were fairly evenly distributed among all educational and income levels and racial categories.

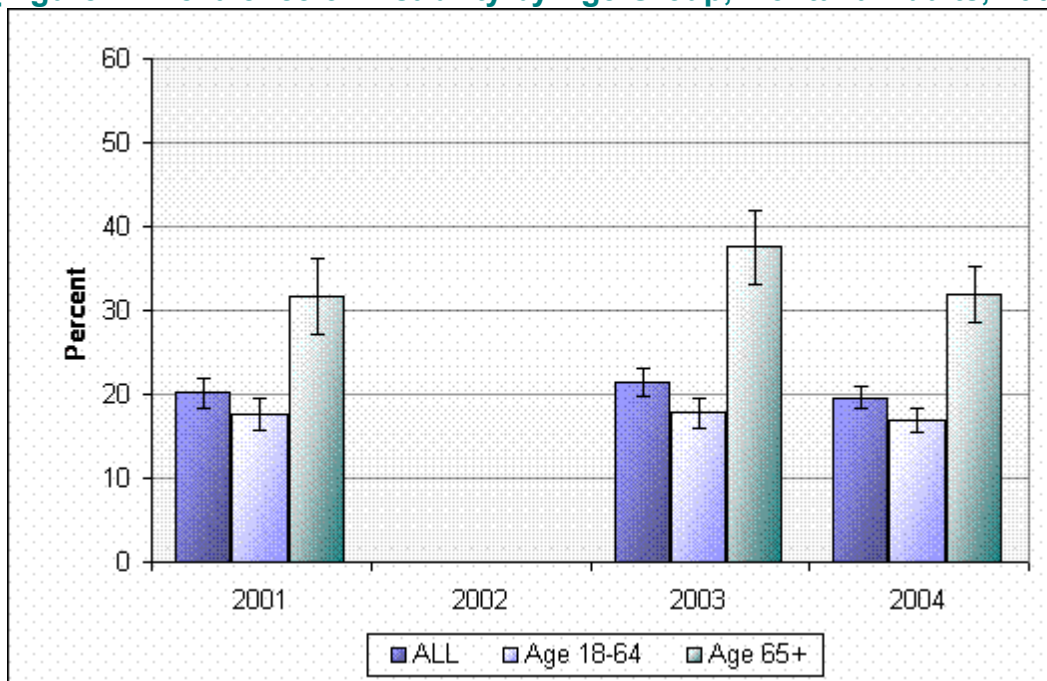[Table 4. Disability and Disability Visitability, Montana Adults, 2004]

Figure 4. Prevalence of Disability by Age Group, Montana Adults, 2001-2004.